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Security Information

27 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. AMORY

SUBJECT: Atomic Energy Release

1. AEC has cleared the present draft, as attached. Secretary Wilson would like to state at the end of para 3 that: "These weapons can be carried to certain targets by existing Soviet aircraft types." On this point, the Edwards Report (adopted as the basis for NSC 159) states flatly that:

"By utilizing range-extension techniques known to the USSR, the stripped-down TU-4 bomber can reach any target in the US on a one-way mission."

You will recall that General Bull, in briefing the Planning Board, said that his Committee was aware that there had been no direct evidence of Soviet use of inflight refueling. However, the Committee had gone exhaustively into the difficulties of such action, and had concluded that it was so easy that it must be assumed that the Soviets can do it effectively if they choose, even in far northern latitudes. Therefore, I think Mr. Wilson's amendment conveys a most misleading impression, at least as to Soviet A-bombs. (I have no knowledge of the weight and size problems of H-bombs, but if they can be carried at all it would presumably be in the TU-4, so that the range could not be far short of that assumed in the Edwards Report.)

2. If we decide to resist the Wilson proposal, I think it should be done at top level. Maybe this is a good time to knock some of the cobwebs out of his thinking.

3. Admiral Strauss still feels the NSC should discuss the question of a similar release to the American people. I suggest DCI call him and say that this is a matter for him to take up directly with the President. Time and temper will certainly be strained if it comes to NSC again, and in any event its major relevance is to the whole problem of the "Candor" speech, and is not being handled at the moment in NSC.

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